

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----092058Z 088435 /70

R 091607Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9432
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS BEGINS PRIVATE BRIEFINGS ON AEGEAN AND CYPRUS
ISSUES

1. SINCE THE VISIT OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION, LIVELY
INTEREST HAS CONTINUED HERE IN DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING
THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS. IN THIS CONNECTION, OPPOSITION
PARTY LEADERS HAVE JOINED IN DEMANDING THAT PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS BRIEF THEM ON THE STATUS OF THESE TWO NATIONAL
ISSUES, WITH MAVROS, PAPANDREOU AND ILIOU CALLING FOR A FULL-
BLOWN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT
HAS TURNED ASIDE THE REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION,
MAINTAINING THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION WOULD BE HELD
AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, CARAMANLIS NEVERTHELESS HAS
UNDERTAKEN TO BRIEF THE "PARTY LEADERS" (MEANING GEORGE
MAVROS OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, ANDREAS
PAPANDREOU OF PASOK AND ILIAS ILIOU OF THE UNITED
DEMOCRATIC LEFT OF EDA) PRIVATELY.

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2. LAST EVENING (MARCH 8), CARAMANLIS SPENT HALF AN
HOUR WITH ILIOU FOR THIS PURPOSE (ILIOU WAS FIRST IN
LINE THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF MAVROS, BECAUSE HE IS
LEAVING SHORTLY FOR MEETINGS IN ITALY.) THE OTHER
TWO ARE EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED LATER THIS WEEK AT,
AS A GOVERNMENT SOURCE PUT IT, THE PRIME MINISTER'S

INITIATIVE. REPORTS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ILIOU INDICATE THEY ALSO SPOKE ABOUT GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC, AND ILIOU RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE REPATRIATION OF GREEK REFUGEES LIVING IN ROMANIA.

3. MEANWHILE PAPANDREOU HAS CONTINUED TO SPEAK OUT BOLDLY, CHARGING THAT THE US AND NATO CIRCLES WERE BRINGING PRESSURE ON THE GOG IN SUPPORT OF TURKISH DEMANDS IN THE DISPUTES OVER THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIR SPACE. THE PASOK LEADER STATED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY AGREEMENT ON THE AEGEAN THAT INVOLVED CEDING NATIONAL TERRITORY OR UNDERMINING THE NATIONAL SECURITY, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WERE RATIFIED BY SOME INTERNATIONAL BODY. IN SUPPORT OF HIS POSITION, PAPANDREOU CITED A LETTER FROM A MILITARY COMMENTATOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT ARGUING THAT THE SLIGHTEST CONCESSION IN THE AEGEAN WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE NATION'S NATIONAL SECURITY.

4. REACTING TO PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENT, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE LABELLED HIS CONCERNS AS "GROUNDLESS" AND POINTED OUT THAT NO PRESSURE WAS BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FROM ANY SIDE. FURTHERMORE, THE GOG SOURCE STRESSED, IF THERE WERE PRESSURES, "IT WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED."
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS02165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0722
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaacrvtel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6785ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3169997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS BEGINS PRIVATE BRIEFINGS ON AEGEAN AND CYPRUS ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6785ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009